commercial crops etc. to name a few: rice (22), maize (10), wheat (4), pulses such as pigeon pea, moong, green gram, chickpea, lentil (12), oilseeds such as rapeseed, yellow mustard, mustard, groundnut, sesamum (11), small millets such as finger millet, proso millet, barnyard millet (9), tuber crops such as sweet potato, yambean arui, elephant yam (9), potato (3) spices such as turmeric, fenugreek, coriander (3), mango (7), vegetables such as brinjal, parwal, bottle gourd, sponge gourd, (6), jute (1) and sugarcane (13). These high yielding varieties have contributed towards enhanced productivity per hectare in crops: to name a few such as in foodgrains: (795 kg. in 1970-71 to 1311 kg. in 2005-06); pulses (600 kg. in 1970-71 to 749 kg. in 2005-06) and in oilseeds (458 kg. 1970-71 to 982 kg 2005-06).

(c) The maximum yield potential of crops depends on a number of factors such as growing environments, the quality seed and planting material used, package of practices for crop production and protection and also the post harvest practices applied etc. The agricultural productivity can be augmented by improving irrigation efficiency, enhanced availability of institutional credit, strengthening of technology system, augmenting supply of soruce seed, enhanced flow of technology of farmers, appropriate market infrastructure, value addition, price and other policy support etc.

Procurement of mustard seeds at MSP

3969. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government have made any arrangement for procurement of mustard seeds at support price through NAFED, as about more than 25 lakh tonnes of mustard seed produce are expected this year;

(b) if so, the criteria fixed by the Central Government, so far, for the procurement of mustard seeds by cooperating the farmers in distress; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Central Government has fixed Minimum Support Price (MSP) of Fair Average Quality of mustard

seed for rabi crop season of 2007 at Rs. 1715.- per quintal. The Government, through NAFED as the central Agency, like in Rabi 2005 and Rabi 2006, has made adequate arrangements for procurement of Fair Average Quality mustard seed under Price Support Scheme (PSS) during Rabi 2007 at the MSP. It has been reported by NAFED that during the current Rabi crop season, the prices of mustard seed are generally ruling at or above the MSP. However, NAFED has procured 20,600 MT mustard seed under PSS during Rabi 2007 season in the State of Rajasthan, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Punjab from the farmers through State Cooperative Marketing Federations/Oilseeds Growers Cooperative Federations whereever the prices ruled below the MSP. In case the prices rule above the MSP, the farmers are at liberty to sell their produce at the prices higher than the MSP.

Decline in Public Investment

3970. SHRI SK. KHABIR UDDIN AHMED: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is decline in public investment in agriculture; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) No, Sir. According to the latest estimates released by Central Statistical Organization (CSO), the public investment in agriculture and allied sectors, measured in terms of Gross Capital Formation registered an increase in real terms (at 1999-2000 prices) from Rs.8,733 crore during 2002-03 to Rs. 14,144 crore during 2005-06. The increase during this period is of the order of 61.96 per cent.

(b) Does not arise.

Legislation for checking forcible acquision of land

†3971. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to introduce a bill to check the forcible acquisition of land of farmers for different reasons by the State Governments; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.